

SAN ANTONIO

PRESERVATION NEWSLINK

March 2012 Edition



A Message from the Historic Preservation Officer

I am excited to tell you about our new *Power of Preservation* Campaign kicked off on February 23 by Mayor Castro. We were also pleased that Councilwoman Ozuna joined us to make this important announcement. The campaign is a multi-media public outreach effort to raise awareness of the *power* of preservation in our community. The campaign will culminate in the much anticipated inaugural Preservation PROMenade (aka Prom) and Preservation Pachanga at the historic Mission Road Power Plant (thanks to CPS) on October 25. This event will be a fundraising gala with a twist. Proceeds from the campaign will benefit our hand-on preservation programs including the S.T.A.R. Project and the Acquisition/Rehab/Resale Revolving Fund.

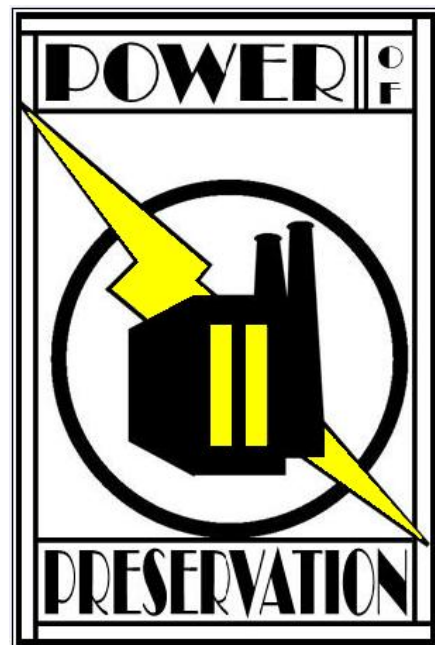
While many citizens, business leaders and elected officials may not self-identify as preservationists, most people value that which preservation is about: a sense of place, a sense of community, reinvestment in downtown and the central city, adaptive reuse of existing buildings and infrastructure, economic development, protection of neighborhoods, authenticity,

walkability, and sustainability. The campaign will show that we are all preservationists in various ways. The name ties the campaign to the Mission Road Power Plant in a literal way but communicates the figurative power of preservation for improving the quality of life in our great city. Historic preservation is economic, cultural and environmental sustainability.

We have an amazing committee chaired by Andi Rodriguez, Dru Van Steenberg, and Theresa Vargas Wyatt. As announced last week, former Mayor Phil Hardberger will be the emcee for the evening. He is the perfect person for the job! CPS has generously donated the use of the fantastic site for the Prom and Kell-Munoz has already signed on as a sponsor. Please make plans now to be a part of the *Power of Preservation* Campaign! Please visit www.powerofpreservation.org for more information.

The Spring 2012 S.T.A.R (Students Together Achieving Revitalization) Project will be in the Tobin Hill Historic District and the Five Points proposed historic district later this month.

Students and volunteers will provide basic exterior repair and maintenance work on historic homes on March 24-25 and March 31-April 1. We are excited about doing our part to continue the efforts to revitalize San Antonio's historic neighborhoods. Please join us!



March 2012

Congratulations are also in order for two members of the OHP staff. I am very pleased to announce that our City Archaeologist, Kay Hinds, is being honored by the San Antonio Conservation Society with the Texas Preservation Heroes Award. This is a prestigious and well-deserved honor given to her for “outstanding contributions to South Texas Archeology and her role in the preservation of historic buildings and the protection of South Texas historical artifacts.” I am also happy to announce that Anna Glover has been promoted within OHP to take on a greater leadership and management role. In this new position, she will assist me in setting priorities for the Office and represent OHP on my behalf as needed. I am very excited to be working with her in this new capacity. Congratulations, Anna!

Finally, please enjoy some features in honor of African-American History Month in February, including an article on slave architecture in San Antonio and a special Preservation Partners profile.

Enjoy!

Sharon

City News and Events

Call For Volunteers – S.T.A.R.



Our S.T.A.R project needs your help! We are seeking additional sponsors and volunteers to help with the next S.T.A.R. program on March 24-25 and March 31-April 1 in the Tobin Hill Historic District and the Five Points proposed historic district. Please consider donating supplies or resources for repairing houses. To date, the S.T.A.R. project has completed repairs to 32 houses. On average, volunteers have completed work valued between \$5000-\$15000 per house at an average cost of \$800 per house. That's a huge return on investment! For more information on sponsorship or volunteer opportunities, please contact George McQueen at george.mcqueen@sanantonio.gov or 210.207.0166.



Guided Running & Walking Tours

Stay tuned for the next guided tour!

Go! Historic SA Guided Running & Walking Tours are a great way to get some exercise and learn about the history of San Antonio. Tours are open to runners and walkers of all skill levels. Participants are divided into small groups based on experience. Routes take approximately 1-1/2 hours to complete. Registration is \$15.

Stay tuned for details on our next guided tours offered during National Preservation Month in May.



Featured Articles

Hidden History: Searching for the Structures of Slavery in San Antonio

By Nicholas Fuqua and Edna Campos Gravenhorst, OHP

To a preservationist, the story of history is told through the built environment. The structures and spaces that remain from the past tell us a great deal about the world in which they were constructed. Physical remains are sometimes all that we have to shape our view of that world. The walls talk, where the voices within have been silenced. The world of the American slave is one that has been silenced for far too long and is now increasingly being analyzed through this methodology.

Even in areas of the country with historically dense slave populations like Virginia, South Carolina, and Louisiana, the remnants of slave housing and structures associated with the slave trade are few. San Antonio and South Texas present greater challenges in the search for the architecture of slavery. Historically low slave populations resulted in fewer structures associated with slavery, whether slave quarters or processing centers like markets and slave pens. However, these structures did, and most likely do, still exist. Analyzing the spaces and places that defined slave confinement may be more difficult, but it will ultimately be essential to filling in the gaps in San Antonio's slave history.

With its cultural ties to Mexico, which pressed to outlaw slavery in Texas, San Antonio had relatively few slaves. Indeed one of the rights Texans fought for during the revolution of 1836 was to bring slaves into the colony. Once Texas gained its independence from Mexico in 1836, slaves poured into the new republic and remained a keystone of its economy until the Civil War.

San Antonio, however, was not a major player in the slave trade, nor did it have the sizable populations of working slaves like the other major cities of antebellum Texas such as Houston, Galveston, or Austin. San Antonio's large German population that was generally not of strong Confederate support, coupled with the absence of the large-scale farming of cash crops like cotton and sugarcane found in the eastern parts of the state, contributed to a relatively low slave population. But slaves were not completely absent from the historical landscape of San Antonio or South Texas.



*Slave quarters at the Beauregard Ranch, near Poth, TX
Source: Historic American Buildings Survey*

Some noted structures in the city are linked with slavery, including the Alamo itself, where William Travis' slave, Joe, survived the siege. New research indicates that there were perhaps other slaves present at the battle as well. The Emily Morgan Hotel (formerly the Medical Arts Building) was named for the mulatta who supposedly seduced Santa Anna to aid the rebel cause. A January 2, 1939 newspaper article from the *San Antonio Express* contained a story about David Alexander. In the article, eighty-nine year old "Uncle Dave" remembers a slave market located at the corner of Alamo and Congress Streets where the old Joske's building now stands. The article recounts how "...he used to watch negro slaves being placed on the auction block to be sold to the highest bidder." It also indicates that his father, David C. Alexander, was in the mercantile business and traded in slaves through the end of the Civil War. Was this auction block temporarily placed there when slaves were sold or was this a permanent block as in other cities? Was there, perhaps, something more substantial at that location such as a slave pen? Slave pens were common features of the domestic slave trade in many cities including New Orleans, St. Louis, Savannah, and Washington D.C. Additional research is needed to fully reveal the extent of San Antonio's slave selling infrastructure.

Finding slave dwellings in San Antonio can also prove difficult. The archives of the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) at the Library of Congress reveal a handful of dwellings in and around San Antonio that were identified as slave quarters. The Beauregard Ranch, just south of San Antonio near the small town of Poth in Wilson County, was owned by Augustin Beauregard, brother to the famous Confederate general Pierre Gustave Toutant Beauregard (commonly known as P.G.T. Beauregard). This ranch complex was documented in 1934 and had at least one structure listed as slave quarters. Constructed of native stone, the form of the dwelling is in keeping with similar structures found in more established slave holding areas. It consisted of a small two-room structure with symmetrically placed entrance doors, a side gabled roof, and a central shared chimney. Beauregard and his slaves no doubt brought with them the inherent building practices from their native Louisiana. Who were these slaves?



*The Magnus Seng House
Source: Historic American Buildings Survey*

What were their duties? How did their lives differ from the lives of slaves on the cotton and sugarcane plantations of east Texas? Their stories too need to be unearthed.

In San Antonio, two structures were identified through HABS documentation as having slave quarters. The Magnus Seng House, now demolished, was documented between 1934 and 1937 and was located at the corner of Bowie and Nacogdoches Streets. According to the HABS data pages, it was constructed in 1842. The photographs include one of a dwelling identified as slave quarters. The small structure appears to be typical of the adobe buildings found throughout San Antonio in the early to mid-nineteenth century. More research on this complex is needed to fully substantiate the validity of this structure as slave quarters and to determine who may have lived there.



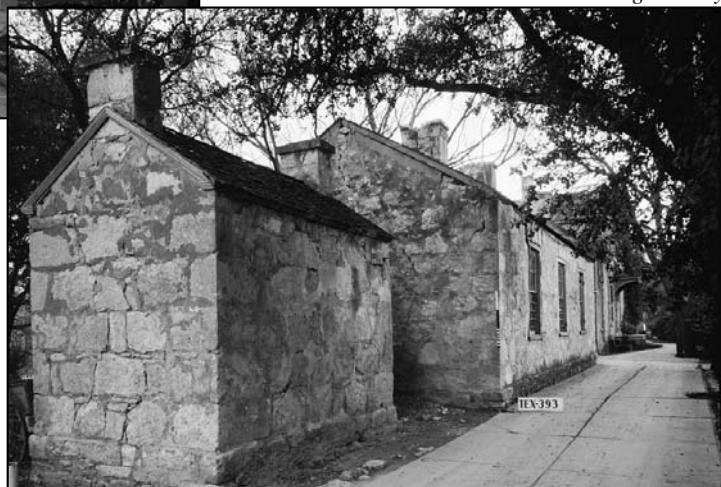
*Slave quarters at the Magnus Seng House
Source: Historic American Buildings Survey*

The second house with slave quarters identified in HABS documentation of 1937 was the Denman or Lewis House at 112 Lexington, now the site of the Tropicana Hotel. The property was owned by Nathaniel Lewis, whose home reportedly dated to before 1850. Outbuildings on the property included a smoke house and slave quarters. Further research indicated that the Lewis property was quite large and contained a barn and a small house, probably a kitchen, about a mile north of the main complex at what is now 305 Euclid in Tobin Hill. This small house, known as the Delgado-Harris House, still stands and is the only remaining vestige of the property. It *may* also be one of the only slave houses remaining in San Antonio. This is where our story begins.



*The house built by Nathaniel Lewis at 112 Lexington,
now the site of the El Tropicano Hotel
Source: Historic American Buildings Survey*

*Slave quarters and smokehouse behind
the Nathaniel Lewis house
Source: Historic American Buildings Survey*



The Historic Delgado-Harris House

There are so many stories in San Antonio that need to be told. Some of these voices are silenced and stories erased by demolition only to resurface again through research. Other stories linger in deserted buildings waiting to be discovered. Such is the case of the Delgado-Harris house, a local landmark at 305 E. Euclid. It begs to tell its story but who would listen? The little *caliche* house in the Tobin Hill neighborhood is not a mansion or the former home of a prominent San Antonio resident. No famous person slept there so why should the history of this little house matter? After all, a former owner's mansion on the San Antonio River, along with a smokehouse, barn, and slave quarters, were demolished fifty years ago to build the El Tropicano Hotel at the intersection of Lexington and N. St. Mary's Street.

The property on which the Delgado-Harris house is located was purchased by Nathaniel Lewis in 1852 from Ygnacio Perez. The property was part of the Manuel Delgado Spanish land grant from the 1700s and has been locally known as the Delgado House believed to date to the late 18th century. The suggestion that the Delgado/Harris house was constructed in the 18th century was investigated through an archival review and site visit by City Archeologist Kay Hinds in ca. 2004. Hinds found no definitive evidence at that time to support that the house dated to the Spanish Colonial period. Rather, preliminary archival review, architectural components, and some limited artifactual material uncovered by the owner during the course of stabilization lent support that the little house was built in the mid 19th century. It is then possible that the house was built after the property was purchased by Nathaniel Lewis. A more accurate date of construction would require an archaeological excavation. Regardless of the exact age of the house, the question that has surfaced recently is this: could the little house have been a slave dwelling?

It is difficult to discover the histories necessary to tell the stories of former slaves. The resources are scant and research could take years. We could let this history be forgotten through the passage of time, but what if we could prove that this house was a slave dwelling worth preserving for generations of African-Americans and Afro-Latinos in San Antonio and throughout the United States? Additional research needs to be done, but the following information *suggests* that this property *may* have been a slave dwelling associated with the Nathaniel Lewis family and a former slave, Lucinda Harris.

According to the 1850 and 1860 slave schedules for Bexar County, Nathaniel Lewis was a slave owner. In 1850 he owned three slaves: a forty-five year old black male, a twenty-eight year old black female, and a twenty-three year old mulatto female. In 1860 he owned eight slaves including a sixty-five year old black female, a sixty year old black male, a forty-five year old mulatto female, a forty-five year old black female, a twelve year old black male, an eleven year old mulatto male, an eight year old mulatto male, and an eight year old mulatto female. Newspaper archives and photographs of Nathaniel Lewis' estate reveal that there



The Delgado-Harris House today, 305 E. Euclid

were slave quarters in proximity to his mansion at the corner of Lexington and N. St. Mary's. The Delgado/Harris house at 305 E. Euclid is about a mile away from where the Lewis mansion once stood.

The earliest documented history connecting Lucinda Harris with the house dates to 1870 when she purchased the house from Nathaniel Lewis for \$860.00. Lucinda had a grown son in 1870, and the title from the purchase of her home mentions that the house would go to "Henry Selby" after her death. The history of Nathaniel Lewis and his family is well documented, but who was Lucinda Harris and where did she come from? Was Lucinda a former slave of Lewis's and was the house she bought from him her former slave dwelling?

What is known about Lucinda Harris in San Antonio has been identified in the 1870 census records by researcher Larry Kirkpatrick. Lucinda was part of the Nathaniel Lewis household. She was listed in the census as a fifty-one year old mulatto female cook born in Mississippi. Her son Henry, the next listed entry in the census record, was identified as an eighteen year old mulatto male barber also born in Mississippi. The Nathaniel Lewis household included a total of twenty-five people. Only three of these, Nathaniel, wife Fannie, and son Daniel, were members of the Lewis family. All other members of the household were servants, laborers and their families, and the cook Lucinda and her son. Lucinda's son, William Henry Selby later married Maria Chavez and they raised a family in their own home. The little house at 305 E. Euclid was deeded to Henry Selby in 1896. Lucinda signed the transfer by marking with an X.

The connection is clearly established between Lucinda Harris and Nathaniel Lewis in San Antonio, but what about her earlier life? Had Lucinda been a former slave? A research tip came from Sylvia Reyna at the Central Library in the Texana Department. Sylvia discovered the book compiled by Ed Johnson, *African Americans in the Bexar County Deed Records*. The book identified a slave woman named Lucinda and child who had been part of the estate of Daniel W. Ragsdale from Goose Pond Plantation in Mississippi.

In 1850 Daniel W. Ragsdale owned sixty-nine slaves. When he wrote his will in 1851, Ragsdale stated that each family member was to receive an allotment of slaves from his estate. Upon his death in 1856, slave lot 8 was allotted to his son, Daniel H. Ragsdale. The slaves included "Charles Fox, Phillis, Wilson, Lucinda and child, Jerry, Matt, Lucien, Whining, Joseph, Buster, Ellen and child, Bob, Harriett, Jenny Glasgow (old)." In the late 1850s, Daniel H. Ragsdale came to Texas and settled in Frio County, presumably bringing his slaves with him. Ragsdale later left to fight in the Civil War and was killed in 1863 in Louisiana. A missing piece of the puzzle is what happened to Ragsdale's slaves after his death? Was the "Lucinda and child" mentioned in his father's will the same Lucinda Harris who was later part of the Nathaniel Lewis household? Circumstantial evidence seems to lend some credence to this hypothesis.

Daniel H. Ragsdale and Nathaniel Lewis had business dealings together as determined through research done at the Daughters of the Republic of Texas Library. However, since a probated will for Daniel H. Ragsdale has not been identified, it is not known what happened to his slaves. Documentation exists of Nathaniel Lewis buying and selling slaves, but a bill of sale for Lucinda and her child has not been discovered.

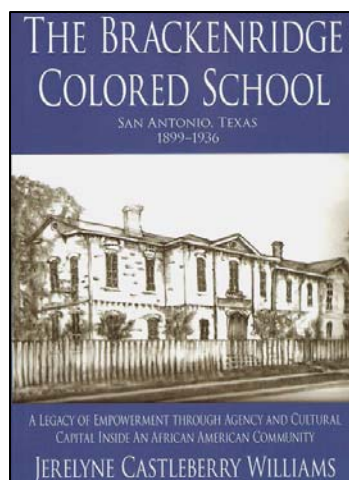


Women washing clothes at Lewis Mill crossing. Photograph taken sometime before 1873. Could one of these women be Lucinda?
Source: *A Place In Time: A Pictorial View of San Antonio's Past* by David McLemore (from the Raba collection)

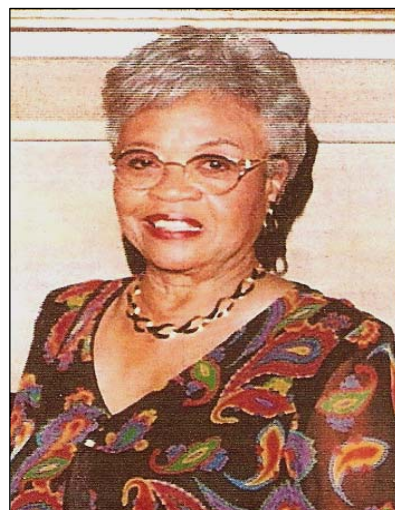
Until additional research is done to determine if Lucinda and her son came to the Lewis estate as slaves or laborers the question of the house at 305 E. Euclid being a former slave dwelling remains unanswered. The house is, however, definitively associated with African American Lucinda Harris and is protected as a local historic landmark.

Preservation Partners: Meet Our Preservation Community

Jerelyn Castleberry Williams, Local Author and Historian



Jerelyn Williams is an accomplished author and historian whose focus is on the African-American history of San Antonio. Williams attended St. Philip's Junior College in San Antonio, Texas Southern University in Houston, and returned to San Antonio to attend Our Lady of the Lake University. She is a retired teacher, having taught for 36 years at various schools including Booker T.



Washington High School in Port Arthur and the Edgewood Independent and San Antonio Independent School Districts in San Antonio. Jerelyn is very involved in the San Antonio community and is the neighborhood representative for the IH 10 East Citizens' Group to the City's Planning

and Zoning Commissions for the IH 10 Perimeter Plan. She serves as the president of the African American Genealogical and Historical Society and is the community representative of the San Antonio Black Museum Exploratory Committee. Some of her publications include *The Brackenridge Colored School: A Legacy of Empowerment Through Agency and Cultural Capital Inside an African American Community in San Antonio, Texas 1899-1936*. She has worked on indexing and publishing information on the historical African-American cemeteries on San Antonio's east side. She is currently researching early schools for African Americans in the United States from the 18th to the 19th centuries and schools for African Americans in San Antonio in the 20th century. Jerelyn lectures and organizes exhibits on African American topics throughout San Antonio and continues to strive to integrate African American history into the broader narrative of our country's history.

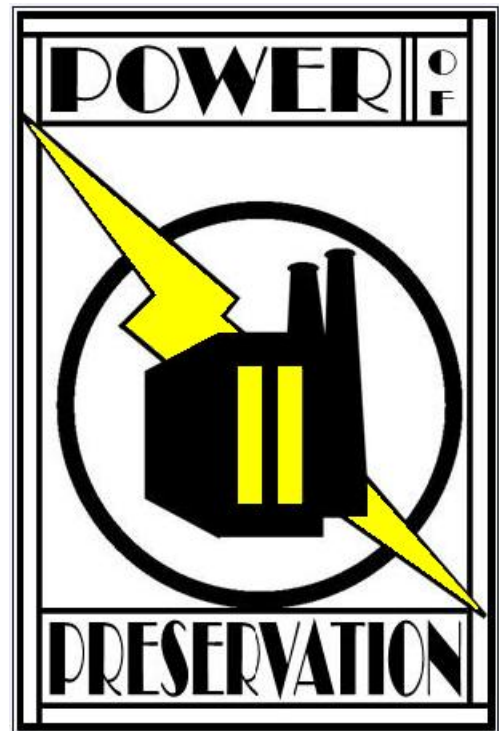
Local Preservation Events and Announcements

Get Stuck on Preservation - Official “Power of Preservation” Tattoos Now Available!

That’s right, tattoos! In support of our *Power of Preservation* Campaign we are unveiling our custom (temporary) tattoos. They measure 2”x3”and last for about a week. They and are only \$1 and all proceeds go to support the important education and outreach programs of the Office of Historic Preservation. Tattoos are available for purchase at 1901 S. Alamo Street. For more information, please call 210.215.9274. To repeat, the tattoos are temporary...but their message is permanent!



Former Mission Road Power Plant and the site of the inaugural Power of Preservation PROM on October 25, 2012. Make plans now to attend!



Power of Preservation Tattoo

Events and Exhibits at Villa Finale

Located at 401 King William Street in the beautiful King William Historic District, Villa Finale is the first National Trust for Historic Preservation site in Texas. For more information on the following tours, programs, and exhibits, stop by the Visitor Center at 122 Madison, call (210) 223-9800, or visit www.villafinale.org.



Music for Your Eyes Tour

Thursday, March 1, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Walter Mathis enhanced Villa Finale's world of visual beauty by filling his home with the sounds of music. Guests to his home were treated to a unique visit as they toured Villa Finale's collections while their ears were entertained by the musical delights of antique machines. The Music for Your Eyes Tour recreates this experience by treating today's visitors to demonstrations of some of the rare music machines in the Mathis collections once more.

Cost: \$10 for members of Villa Finale or National Trust for Historic Preservation; \$20 for non-members.

Reservations: Please call (210) 223-9800 x34328 for reservations or further details.

Location: Pre-paid guests meet at the front gate of Villa Finale, 401 King William Street.



Je Me Souviens: The Return of Napoleon Exhibit extended through May 18, 2012

Napoleonic memorabilia from Villa Finale's collection illustrates the much celebrated return of Napoleon Bonaparte's remains to France in 1840. His enduring popularity is examined through historical accounts of those who witnessed his rule, exile, death, and posthumous return to the country and people he adored.

Location: Villa Finale Visitor Center, 122 Madison Street.



In association with the 2012 San Antonio French Cultures Festival, Villa Finale is pleased to present the following events in March 2012:

- Santé! Tour and Wine Tasting - March 8, 5:00 - 7:00 pm
- La Belgique!: Tour and Dinner at La Frite Belgian Bistro - March 15, 5:00 - 8:00 pm
- "Villa Finale Presents" Concert Series: France - March 22, 6:00 pm
- Parler des arts décoratifs: French decorative arts terms tour - March 31, 10:00 - 11:00 am

More event details will be available soon on our website, www.villafinale.org and at www.safrenchfest.com

Casa Navarro State Historical Site Grand Reopening



OHP was pleased to be a part of the Casa Navarro Grand Re-Opening event and the Jose Antonio Navarro birthday celebration on Saturday, February 25. The event showcased the newly completed renovations. The preservation and rehabilitation work included upgrades in the electrical systems, installation of new interior lighting, HVAC system, repairs to the plaster walls, and interior and exterior painting throughout. The Mercantile

Building, which was previously closed to the public, had its second floor windows replaced, as well as historically accurate doors installed on the first floor to reflect its earliest known appearance. The entire complex was made more accessible, with new steps and ramps, and a rebuilding of the front gate, walkways and courtyards. A new educational exhibit was also unveiled. Be sure to visit and see these extensive renovations and exciting new exhibits. For more information, visit www.visitcasanavarro.com or call 210.226.4801.



Among the guests at the opening were, from left, former State Rep. Dr. Joe J. Bernal, Congressman Lloyd Doggett, Congressman Charlie Gonzales, Mary Esther Bernal, District 1 Councilman Diego Bernal, State Rep. Joaquin Castro, and SARA board member Roberto Rodriguez

Ceramics: The Stories Found in Pottery

The Ceramics Academy will be held at Texas A&M University in College Station on March 3 and 4. This academy will impart the importance of archeological ceramics in terms of technology, chronology, dating, trade, subsistence, and cultural identity. Participants will be informed through lectures and hands-on exercises, all provided by Dr. Harry Shafer and Marybeth Tomka. Registration deadline is February 22, 2012. For more information, visit www.texarch.org.

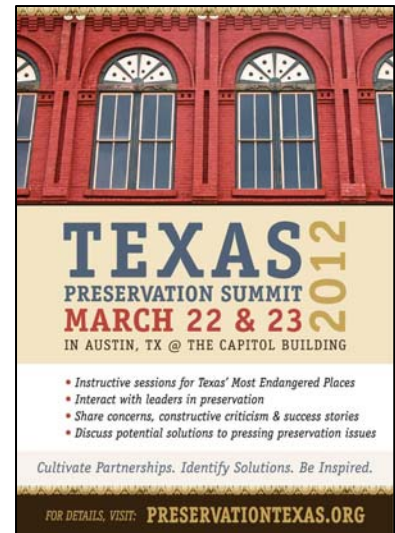


Project for Public Spaces Workshop

PPS will be returning to San Antonio on March 7, 2012, in order to gather additional comments before the concept plan is finalized. A final concept plan for San Antonio's public spaces will be delivered to the City in late spring. PPS would like to invite you to participate in this process and to share this information with anyone who would be interested in attending the Community Meeting on Wednesday, March 7, 2012. For additional information, please contact Colleen Swain at 210.207.4089.

Texas Preservation Summit - March 22nd & 23rd

Join Preservation Texas for the Texas Preservation Summit on March 22 and 23 at the Texas State Capitol Building in Austin. The Summit is an educational event for Texans to discover and develop strategic approaches and solutions to pressing preservation issues and to cultivate partnerships across the state. The Summit will commence with the announcement of 2012 Texas' Most Endangered Places on the South Steps of the Capitol Building. See the [Preservation Texas website](http://www.preservationtexas.org) for additional information. Preservation Texas promotes local preservation efforts and provides a network of resources to individuals and organizations across the state.



Preservation Texas - Call for Nominations for 2012 Preservation Honor Awards

Preservation Texas is the advocate for preserving the historic resources of Texas. For more than 20 years, Preservation Texas has highlighted successful preservation projects through its Preservation Honor Awards. The annual Honor Awards program recognizes outstanding and inspiring accomplishments in historic preservation across the state. Preservation Texas invites you to participate by submitting nominations for exemplary projects, programs, and achievements by individuals or organizations. All projects, activities, or individual service must have been completed between January 2009 and December 2011. Visit www.preservationtexas.org for nomination procedures, guidelines and application. Nominations must be postmarked or delivered to the Preservation Texas office by 5pm on February 29, 2012.



San Antonio Conservation Society Awards Ceremony



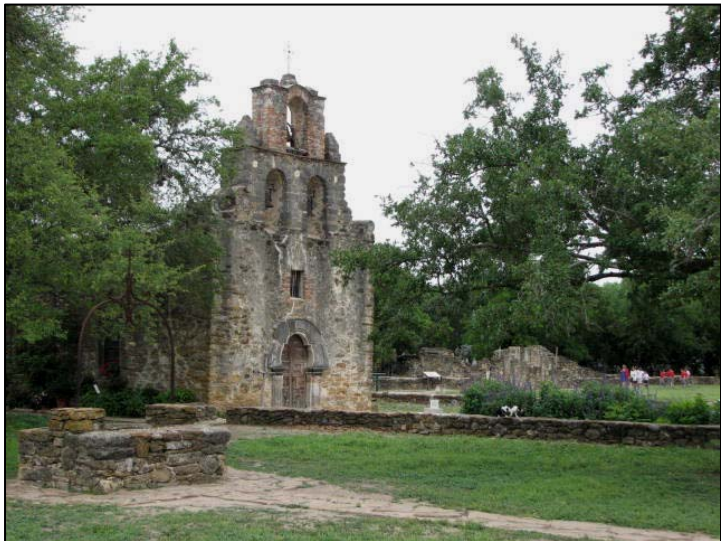
The San Antonio Conservation Society will honor the winners of its Historic Preservation Awards for the Built Environment and other special preservationist awards at a dinner and awards ceremony on Wednesday, March 28, from 6-10 p.m. at Pearl Stable. Cocktails begin at 6 p.m. and dinner and the presentation of awards begins at 7 p.m. The event is open to the public. Tickets are \$75 per person and include cocktails and a full course dinner. Advance reservations and payment is required by Friday, March 16, and can be made by contacting the Conservation Society headquarters at 210.224.6163 or at conserve@saconservation.org. The purpose of the Historic Preservation Awards is to honor those who have reached the highest level of accomplishment in historic preservation by recognizing the

quality of restoration and rehabilitation projects in the built environment (both residential and non-residential).

Of special note, one of the recipients of the Texas Preservation Hero Award is City Archaeologist Kay Hindes. Kay has conducted cultural resources investigations for more than 25 years working with universities, cultural resources management firms, and as an independent research consultant. Kay was one of the co-founders of the San Antonio Conservation Society's Historic Farm & Ranch Committee in 2005 and has actively served as a consultant and resource person for this committee and other Society projects and initiatives. Kay has restored six historic houses in Atascosa County, doing much of the work herself. She recently restored a historic house in San Antonio's Lavaca Historic District. Kay is co-discoverer of the Mission Santa Cruz de San Saba located in Menard County, Texas, and served as co-project historian for the Spanish Colonial component at Site 41VT4, LaSalle's Fort St. Louis/Presidio del Loreto located in Victoria County, Texas. **Congratulations, Kay!**

Public Meeting Notice – National Park Service

The National Park Service is conducting a feasibility study to identify ways to connect sites and routes associated with the El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail (El Camino Real) to the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park. The study area incorporates a five mile area around the San Antonio River between two specific locations, Mission Espada in San Antonio and Ranch de las Cabras in Floresville. Public input is requested to identify enhancements to public health, recreation, resource protection, and other community social and economic benefits. The meeting will be held Saturday, February 25, from 11am-12pm at the Floresville City Hall at 1120 D Street in Floresville, TX. For more information please go to www.parkplanning.nps.gov/saantrailstudy.



Reporting Potential Violations to the Historic Building Enforcement Officer

To help protect the City's historic resources, residents are encouraged to notify the Office of Historic Preservation of potential violations. To report a concern:

- 1) Gather information. Be prepared to provide the address of the property in question and a brief description of the potential violation or concern. Photographs are helpful but not necessary.
- 2) Call 210.219.2093 or email Ron Meyers, Historic Building Enforcement Officer, at ron.meyers@sanantonio.gov or OHP@sanantonio.gov during regular business hours (7:45am - 4:30pm) to report your concerns. After-hours complaints should be registered by phone through 311 or by email at OHP@sanantonio.gov.
- 3) You can report potential problems anonymously or provide contact information for follow-up.

Historic Structure Plaques

Historic Structure Plaques are available for purchase for individual local landmarks and contributing properties within local historic districts. The plaques visually identify properties and districts that have been officially recognized by the City of San Antonio for their architectural or historical significance. The plaques, available for purchase for \$95, are of cast aluminum with raised silver letters on a dark grey background. The plaques are approximately 7½ inches in diameter and ¼ inch thick. Fill out



an application available on our website or stop by our office to purchase yours today.

HPTV: Historic Preservation Television

HPTV is back with all new episodes!

See the show on TVSA
Channel 21:

Tuesdays @ 9:00am
Wednesdays @ 1:00pm
Fridays @ 7:00pm



View current and past episodes of HPTV online at the OHP website (*sorry, PC only*). Recent episodes include a discussion by City Archaeologist, Kay Hinds, and members of the San Antonio Conservation Society on Historic Farm and Ranch Complexes; information on our city-wide historic district design guidelines initiative; the historic Eastside Cemetery District; and much more!

If you have a suggestion for a topic you would like to see covered on HPTV, contact Nicholas Fuqua at 207.0066 or nicholas.fuqua@sanantonio.gov.

We're on the web!

The Office of Historic Preservation is on Facebook! Facebook is a great resource for promoting preservation events and networking with other people in the community interested in preservation topics. Click the Facebook icon above or go to www.facebook.com and search for "City of San Antonio Office of Historic Preservation."



Follow us on Twitter
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Subscribe to our
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[SApreservation](https://www.youtube.com/SApreservation)



Check out the historic preservation
blog on the San Antonio Express-
News website at
<http://voices.mysanantonio.com/swasielewski/>

Preservation Advocacy

Federal Historic Preservation Issues

Provided by Erik Hein, President, Preservation Action

Note from OHP: The mission of Preservation Action is to make historic preservation a national priority by advocating to all branches of the federal government for sound preservation policy and programs through a grassroots constituency empowered with information and training and through direct contact with elected representatives. What happens in Washington directly impacts the work we do at the local level: grant funding to Certified Local Governments, Preserve America and Save Americas Treasures programs, federal rehabilitation tax credit policy, etc. This feature is intended to provide information to those who are interested about the status of current national legislative priorities within the preservation movement.

For more information about Preservation Action or current issues on the national legislative agenda or for information about becoming a member, visit www.preservationaction.org or contact Shanon Peterson at shanon.peterson@sanantonio.gov. The following information is taken from the Preservation Action website www.preservationaction.org.

Transportation Reauthorization Hits Speedbumps

The short story is that it seems that the House Transportation Reauthorization proposal, which has now been broken apart into three different pieces (transportation, energy production & federal employee pensions) to try to make it more palatable, still has very little support and has been threatened with a Presidential veto, while the Senate bill is facing several potential unrelated amendments covering subjects ranging from health care to eliminating financial support for Egypt.

This week House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) announced they would be pushing consideration of the transportation and federal employee pension sections until after next week's Presidents Day holiday recess. The energy portion of the bill, which does include a provision championed in the Senate by Sen. Mary Landrieu (D-LA) that would establish a trust fund for Gulf Coast restoration, passed on Thursday. Also included is an amendment by Rep. Doc Hastings (R-WA) that would "streamline" the NEPA review process for developing renewable energy projects on public lands by limiting consideration only to a singular "proposed action" or "no action," eliminating alternatives.

Sources tell us that there are not yet enough votes in the House to pass the transportation piece, and more than 300 amendments have been filed. Preservation Action has been working with its partners and members to seek the introduction of amendments to correct many of the most damaging provisions in the bill, and we have been lending our support to others. Unfortunately, given the acrimony in the House over the subject, a clear outcome is uncertain.

In the Senate, over 100 amendments have been submitted, some offering similar categorical exemptions to historic or environmental reviews that appear in the House proposal. Additionally, some legislators are attempting to tack on a number of controversial unrelated provisions, while the leadership is struggling to keep the bill clean. Debate has started on components of the bill, but even though it had strong bi-partisan support on Committee, these larger issues threaten to derail it.

Because of the constantly changing landscape surrounding these bills, stay tuned for updates or new Action Alerts as they unfold.

President Releases 2013 Budget; Preservation Support Lukewarm

This week, President Obama released his vision for the next year with his 2013 budget proposal. As much a political tool in an election year as a guide for government spending, this proposal is the first benchmark in a lengthy process for preservationists to determine how preservation funding may stand when Congress takes up their 2013 budget appropriations later this year.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	FY 2012 President's Request	FY 2013 President's Request
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SHPOs	\$39.3	\$42.5	\$46.5	\$46.4	\$47	\$50	\$46.9
THPOs	\$6.4	\$7	\$8	\$7.9	\$9	\$11	\$8.9
SAT	\$25	\$20	\$25	0	0	0	0
PA	\$7.5	0	\$4.6	0	0	0	0
ACHP	\$5.3	\$5.4	\$5.9	\$5.9	\$6.1	\$6.1	\$5.7
Heritage Areas	\$15	\$16	\$18	\$17.8	\$17.4	\$8.9	\$9.3

Funding for the Historic Preservation Fund would remain level with the FY12 enacted amount of \$55.9 million. With last year's elimination of Save America's Treasures and Preserve America, State Historic Preservation offices, Certified Local Governments, Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, and Tribal Heritage Grants are the only programs funded out of the HPF. PA continues to lobby Congress for a competitive bricks and mortar grant program to be funded from the HPF and administered by the States.

The President has once again proposed cutting National Heritage Area (NHA) funding in half to \$9.3 million, once again citing a lack of criteria and programmatic language for NHAs. To address this issue, the National Alliance of Heritage Areas has been working on the introduction of the Heritage Area Act of 2012, currently seeking original sponsors to join Charles Dent (R-PA), and Rep. Paul Tonko (D-NY). A Dear Colleague letter is available for circulation to your Representatives.

Under the President's budget, many of the Federal Highway Programs would be consolidated into five broad categories. Transportation Enhancements, Scenic Byways, and Historic Covered Bridge Preservation would likely fall in to the new "Livability" category and compete with several other programs for \$4 billion in funds in 2013 and \$27 billion for the following six years. This program is very similar to the one proposed in the President's 2012 budget. This approach, however, does not mirror any of the new transportation law proposals being considered in the House or Senate (story above).

Of particular note in the National Park Service budget is a \$24 million cut from their construction budget. With a \$3 billion backlog in deferred maintenance on more than 27,000 National Register listed sites, this is cause for great concern.

New Study Demonstrates Historic Tax Credit Safe Investment

A new study commissioned by the National Trust for Historic Preservation analyzing the "tax recapture" rate of the Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit (HRTC) has concluded that such projects are a safe investment.

"Tax recapture," happens when a project that has utilized the HRTC either changes ownership or no longer continues to be an investment property within five years of being placed in service. This survey reports that of the respondents, who make up over 50% of those receiving the HRTC, only seven of 653 transactions experienced recapture. This translates to a recapture rate of less than $\frac{3}{4}$ of one percent (0.73%) of credits claimed among those surveyed over the last ten years. The survey concludes that the HRTC has a success rate of over 99%, and is therefore a very sound investment.

The report also provides a useful overview of the HRTC program, the business structure of a typical transaction, and some economic impact data.

Select Preservation Bill Monitor

[H.R. 2555: Historic Homeownership Revitalization Act of 2011](#)

Sponsored by: Rep. Michael Turner (R-OH), Rep. Russ Carnahan (D-MO)

Summary: Would establish a historic rehabilitation tax credit for homeowners and developers of historic homes.

Status: Referred to House Committee on Ways and Means.

H.R. 2479, S. 2074: Creating American Prosperity Through Preservation Act

Sponsored by: Rep. Aaron Schock (R-OH), Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR)

Sponsored by: Sen. Ben Cardin (D-MD), Sen. Olympia Snowe (R-ME)

Summary: Would amend the existing commercial rehabilitation tax credit to create a larger credit for smaller projects, improve usability by non-profits, clarify the age of eligibility, exempt state credits from federal income tax, and establish an energy efficiency supplement.

Status: Referred to House Committee on Ways and Means.

S. 1685: Rehabilitation of Historic Schools Act of 2011

Sponsored by: Sen. Jim Webb (D-VA), Sen. Mark Warner (R-VA)

Summary: Would amend the existing commercial rehabilitation tax credit to allow rehabilitation expenditures for a qualified public educational facility (defined as a school facility which is part of a public elementary or secondary school and is owned by a private, for-profit corporation pursuant to a public-private partnership agreement) to qualify for the rehabilitation tax credit.

Status: Referred to Senate Committee on Finance

H.R. 1505: National Security and Federal Lands Protection Act

Sponsored by: Rep. Rob Bishop (R-UT)

Summary: Would waive activities related to border security enforcement from several review laws, including NEPA, NHPA, the Antiquities Act and the National Park Service Organic Act. The waiver would cover "certain sections of the international border between the United States and Mexico and between the United States and Canada [and] shall be considered to apply to all sections of the international land and maritime borders of the United States within 100 miles of the international land and maritime borders of the United States."

Status: House Natural Resources Committee held markup first week of October, 2011.

H.R. 1734: Civilian Property Realignment Act

Sponsored by: Rep. Jeff Denham (R-CA)

Summary: Would establish a Civilian Property Realignment Board charged with, in consultation with local communities, identifying and analyzing surplus federal property for sale, transfer or disposal.

Status: Referred to House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, and the House Rules Committee.

S. 1081: Project Delivery Improvement Act

Sponsored by: Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)

Summary: Eliminates several provisions dealing with and considering impacts to historic sites, exempting them from highway and transportation laws.

Status: Referred to Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. Similar provisions have been worked into House and Senate Transportation Reauthorization proposals.

Any Bill introduced in any Congress can be found on [Thomas/Library of Congress](#).

The full calendar for the House of Representatives can be found [here](#).

The full calendar for the Senate can be found [here](#).